

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 EA-11

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, VS, US, CA

SUBJECT: "PENTAGON PAPERS" DISCUSSION OF CANADIAN ROLE IN ICC.

1. IN PAST WEEK TORONTO GLOBE AND MAIL HAS CARRIED EXTENSIVE EXCERPTS FROM "PENTAGON PAPERS", MADE PUBLIC DURING TRIAL OF DANIEL ELLSBERG, DISCUSSING GOC ROLE IN ICC (COPIES POUCHED DEPT.). PARTICULAR ATTENTION HAS BEEN GIVEN TRIPS MADE TO HANOI IN 1964-65 BY ICC DELEGATES BLAIR SEABORN AND VICTOR MOORE, AND IN 1966 BY SPECIAL ENVOY CHESTER RONNING. PAPERS GIVE IMPRESSION THAT U.S. OFFICIALS TENDED REGARD CANDIAN DIPLOMATS AS "MESSENGER BOYS," AND SUGGEST THAT U.S. WISHED THEM TO EXPRESS U.S. POLICY POSITIONS AS PERSONAL OPINIONS IN DEALING WITH NVN. OTHER SECTIONS ALLEGE THAT SEABORN, INSTRUCTED BY PRMIN LESTER PEARSON, WARNED NVN THAT U.S. WOULD COMMENCE BOMBING OF NORTH UNLESS HANOI AGREED TO NEGOTIATE. PEARSON ALLEGED TO HAVE EXPRESSED "UNDERSTANDING" OF U.S. POSITION SHOULD U.S. FIND IT NECESSARY BOMB IN NVN.

2. THERE HAVE BEEN QUESTIONS IN COMMONS WHICH GOVERNMENT HAS FIELDLED WITHOUT DIFFICULTY. EXTAFF SECRETARY SHARP AGREED TO CONSIDER REDUCING DECLASSIFICATION PERIOD RELEVANT DOCUMENTS FROM TWENTY TO TEN YEARS, BUT LATER SPOKE OF PROBLEMS IN RELEASING INFO RECEIVED ON PRIVILEGED BASIS. CONSERVATIVE SOURCES TELL US THEIR PARTY WILL NOT SEEK MAKE A POLITICAL

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ISSUE OF REVELATIONS, IF FOR NO OTHER REASON THAN THAT CRITI-

CIZING PEARSON SOON AFTER HIS DEATH WOULD BE FUTILE AND UNPOPULAR.

3. THERE HAS BEEN SOME ADVERSE EDITORIAL COMMENT. GLOBE AND MAIL'S CHARLES TAYLOR PUBLISHED UNJUSTIFIED COLUMN JULY 10, TITLED "A GLIMPSE OF U.S. SCORN FOR CANADA'S VIET DOVES." COLUMN SAYS U.S. OFFICIALS SAW CANADIAN ENVOYS AS "EMBARRASSING AND UNTRUSTWORTHY INTERMEDIARIES WHO WERE HINDERING U.S. PLANS TO ESCALATE THE CONFLICT", AND CONTINUES IN SIMILAR VEIN.

4. IN OUR TALKS WITH EXTAFF OFFICIALS IT WOULD BE USEFUL IF DEPARTMENT COULD MAKE COPIES OF RELEVANT DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE TO US.

COMMENT: WHILE CURRENT REVELATIONS MAY NOT HAVE SERIOUS OR PERMANENT IMPACT ON CANADIAN PUBLIC AND WHILE NEW DISCLOSURES MAY NOT APPEAR EVEN TO GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AS SUBSTANTIALLY DIFFERENT FROM OR ANY MORE EMBARRASSING THAN ORIGINAL 1971 RELEASES, THEY POINT UP ONCE AGAIN THE DAMAGE WHICH THE THEFT OF SUCH CLASSIFIED DOCUMENTS CAN DO THE U.S. AND THE TRUST WE GO TO SUCH PAINS TO DEVELOP. WHY SHOULD FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS GIVE THEIR COOPERATION SO WILLINGLY IN THE FUTURE IF THIS IS HOW THEIR SUPPOSEDLY SECRET OR CONFIDENTIAL ACTIVITIES ARE TO BE TREATED?
SCHMIDT

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